

THE DAILY TELEGRAM

The Leading Newspaper of Central West Virginia.

Published Every Week-day Evening and Sunday Morning by

CLARKSBURG TELEGRAM COMPANY, Clarksburg, W. Va.

Entered at the postoffice at Clarksburg, W. Va., as second class matter.

MEMBER OF ASSOCIATED PRESS.

TELEPHONES: Editorial Rooms, Business Office, Consolidated, 157-1, 157-2, 157-3, 157-4, 157-5, 157-6, 157-7, 157-8, 157-9, 157-10, 157-11, 157-12, 157-13, 157-14, 157-15, 157-16, 157-17, 157-18, 157-19, 157-20, 157-21, 157-22, 157-23, 157-24, 157-25, 157-26, 157-27, 157-28, 157-29, 157-30, 157-31, 157-32, 157-33, 157-34, 157-35, 157-36, 157-37, 157-38, 157-39, 157-40, 157-41, 157-42, 157-43, 157-44, 157-45, 157-46, 157-47, 157-48, 157-49, 157-50, 157-51, 157-52, 157-53, 157-54, 157-55, 157-56, 157-57, 157-58, 157-59, 157-60, 157-61, 157-62, 157-63, 157-64, 157-65, 157-66, 157-67, 157-68, 157-69, 157-70, 157-71, 157-72, 157-73, 157-74, 157-75, 157-76, 157-77, 157-78, 157-79, 157-80, 157-81, 157-82, 157-83, 157-84, 157-85, 157-86, 157-87, 157-88, 157-89, 157-90, 157-91, 157-92, 157-93, 157-94, 157-95, 157-96, 157-97, 157-98, 157-99, 157-100, 157-101, 157-102, 157-103, 157-104, 157-105, 157-106, 157-107, 157-108, 157-109, 157-110, 157-111, 157-112, 157-113, 157-114, 157-115, 157-116, 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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1915.

An Evening Echo.

Usually little things bring the most unexpected trouble. There is nothing except air inside a rubber ball. But if you play with it too recklessly, it is more apt than anything I know to bound back and hit yourself.—GEORGE L. RAYMOND.

A Flatfooted Statement.

There can be no doubt that Victor Murdock, chairman of the Progressive national committee, is an optimist of the most incurable sort, although orthodox party men have been inclined to believe that Progressives as a capitalized noun is a synonym for pessimism. In spite of the steady evaporation that has been noted in the ranks of this once formidable third party, Mr. Murdock courageously announces: "I am ready to say flatfootedly that we Progressives are going into the 1916 fight as a party and to win."

If confidence in a political organization that has been bereft of all but a few of its tail-feathers is not optimism, what can it be called? As evidence of a stout heart it may be sublime, but it is also pathetic. "Flatfoot," it may be observed in passing is a fairly common pedal malady. In the case of the gentleman from Kansas, however, has not the trouble attacked the opposite end of the anatomy?

After the War, What?

After the war, what? asks the New York Sun. Does any one doubt that every manufacturing nation in Europe will see a golden opportunity in the American tariff law, unless it is amended before the peace? Thrift, to the uttermost farthing, or its equivalent, will be the rule in England and in the continent, and labor will be cheap. Every American industry not sufficiently protected will be in danger; and we know that before the first shot was fired in the war a great many of our industries were menaced by the new rates of the Underwood law. Unnamed it would bring many a once flourishing business tottering down in disaster after Europe resumed its peaceful occupations. There is nothing for the American Congress to do but to face the situation without illusions and deal with it judiciously.

To Mr. Wilson and the Democratic party it should be plain that the emergency is not political in any sense. We must have more revenue. American industries must not be allowed to go to rack and ruin. Accordingly the Underwood tariff law should be amended.

Way for Mr. Underwood.

Democratic wisecracks at Washington are busy organizing the Senate committee on finance to make a place for Oscar W. Underwood, who will enter the august body as senator from Alabama when Congress reconvenes in December. Just who is to retire to provide the necessary vacancy on this coveted committee has not yet been determined, but it is hinted that Shively of Indiana or Stone or Missouri will graciously step down and allow the great revenue producer from the southland to have the same prominence in the Senate that he had in the House.

It is now admitted by the Democrats that the revenue laws will need serious attention. Even the most obtuse could see this when the deficit for the fiscal year 1916 on August 31 amounted to more than \$31,000,000, or a little more than half a million a day. This presages a final deficit close to \$180,000,000 for the year, a sum that must make even a Democrat reflect and wonder if his party is on the right track. That is one reason why they want Underwood on the Senate finance committee, so he may assist in devising new forms of "war" taxes to meet the current expense of running the government at peace with all the world.

An Idle Appeal.

Democrats who are appealing to the people to re-elect President Wilson because "he has kept us out of war" will take a back seat after reading what the Hon. Lawrence Y. Sherman, United States senator from Illinois, says on the subject as follows:

The Democratic party appeals for support and asks that President Wilson be re-elected because he has kept

us out of war with Europe. In 1893 Franklin Pierce, a Democrat, was president. The Crimean war began then. For more than three years Great Britain, France, Turkey and Sardinia fought Russia. President Pierce maintained peace. In 1871 the Franco-Prussian war broke out. General Grant, a Republican, was president. He kept the peace. A few years ago the Russo-Japanese war presented similar questions of neutrality and the rights of neutrals. Theodore Roosevelt, a Republican, was president. He, too, kept us at peace.

Why should Pierce, Grant or Roosevelt have involved us in any of those past wars of the old world? Why should President Wilson involve us in the present European war? Other presidents did only their duty then. It is equally President Wilson's duty now. There is no more reason why the president should enter into war now than the presidents named in other years.

Treasury Comparisons Impracticable.

Because the American people are entitled to know the condition of the business of their government, many newspapers have been publishing once a week or oftener, a statement of the condition of the federal treasury, showing the net balance in the general fund as compared with the balance two years earlier, when Republican revenue laws and appropriations were in effect. Needless to say, the showing was not at all creditable to the present Democratic administration. Perhaps the repeated publication of the daily diminishing balance got on the nerves of Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo, son-in-law of the president and supposed exponent of President Wilson's "pittless publicity." At any rate, Secretary McAdoo made a change in the form of the daily treasury statement, effective October 1, so that hereafter it will be impossible to compare Democratic with Republican treasury conditions.

On the last day of September, 1915, the net balance in the general fund was \$40,898,894. On the corresponding date two years ago, the balance was \$123,416,613. Since this administration could not otherwise get away from the showing made in its daily statement, Secretary McAdoo changed the method of keeping accounts so that a balance of less than \$41,000,000 on September 30 leaped to the gratifying sum of \$128,063,545 on October 1.

Undoubtedly it is pleasing to Secretary McAdoo and to the president to read these figures in the daily statement but far more pleasing must be the thought that hereafter Republican newspapers will not be able to print comparisons between Democratic and Republican treasury balances. Great is the art of publicity.

THE DAILY NOVEL

THE BATTLE.

—Don't talk about a man behind his back.

That's the place to kick him.

—Prof. Simp.

The field hospital was quiet except for the hobbles in the shoes of the reporter, who stopped and leaned over the bedside of a fearfully battered, not to say torn, soldier.

"Tell me, whispered the reporter, "how did you come to happen to get so terribly wounded?"

The soldier opened his pale amethyst eyes.

"It was this way," he began huskily, while the reporter hastily opened his note book. One half of me is left of me!"

French. I lay in the trench. Suddenly the battle began. My French leg kicked my German leg, my German leg kicked off its boot and scratched my French leg from the thigh to there. My German hand scratched out my French eye, and my French hand clawed on the German side of my nose. You see what is left of me!"

"Now, maybe, they'll let me alone for a while," chuckled the wounded man with a comfortable stretch